



April 3, 2015

Jeanne Higgins
Forest Supervisor
Stanislaus National Forest
19777 Greenley Road
Sonora, CA 95370

Dear Supervisor Higgins:

This letter of support for grants G14-02-19-G01, G14-02-19-D01, G14-02-19-R02, G14-02-19-R03, and G14-02-19-S01 is being submitted on behalf of the BlueRibbon Coalition, a national non-profit trail-based recreation group.

BRC has reviewed the proposals and believes they are appropriate based on the fact the agency manages high quality and popular destination and dispersed OHV recreational opportunities in the Central Sierra. The devastating 2013 Rim Fire adds extra import to the funding of these grants to help preserve and protect the unit's system trails. BRC appreciates the Forest's utilization of OHV trail-dozer specialists and volunteers to maintain and/or repair routes.

BRC is concerned about the size and scope including the funding amount (488K) request for grant G14-02-19-R01 given that most of the OSV opportunity in the project area is already severely restricted and is basically limited to travel on a single paved road once it is covered with snow. As you know, BRC has supported and participated in the Spotted Owl Noise Study in a project area that impacts hundreds of miles of trails and thousands of miles of roads which are open to OHV use. BRC urges Division staff to analyze the cost-benefit of this grant so that other research projects might be funded that have more of a regional focus.

BRC looks forward to working with you and other stakeholders in support of OHV recreation on the Stanislaus National Forest.

Best regards,

Don

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